DEF 12-5 JORDAN

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Jordan Arab Army Chief Staff Khammash believed be in Paris since September 7 continuing earlier discussions with French in attempt negotiate purchase MIRAGE supersonics. Although Jordanians claim they under UAC requirement obtain three squadrons 60 planes we have suggested one squadron 20 planes may be less difficult to negotiate with French and acceptable to UAC at this juncture.

Crucial element is UAC funding. Jordan hard pressed keep up payments on sales agreement concluded last March with USG for ground forces equipment. GOFrance frankly concerned Jordanian ability pay and not inclined grant concessionary credit terms. If UAC funding forthcoming on schedule and in amounts originally pledged, Jordan could probably manage pay for one squadron.

Department will keep Rabat informed developments during Summit meetings.

GP-3.

END

RUSK

Drafted by: NEA:NE:LFDinsmore:es:9/9/65

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